

Ohio

**Department of
Youth Services**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Harvey J. Reed, Director



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2018

index

2

LETTER FROM
THE DIRECTOR

3

FISCAL YEAR
2018 HIGHLIGHTS

9

FISCAL YEAR 2018
STATISTICS

About Us

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is specifically tasked to confine felony offenders, age 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts.

**A safer Ohio:
one youth,
one family, and
one community
at a time.**

DYS provides a variety of services and treatment for youth including a fully-accredited high school, behavioral health services, unit management, medical and dental care, recreation, religious services, community service opportunities, victim awareness, and reentry services.

The two DYS regional parole offices supervise youth on parole, working with them and their families to provide the guidance necessary for youth to become positive, contributing members of society. Beyond the task of supervision, staff help youth on parole to receive needed services including housing, public assistance, education, and treatment for medical, mental health, and substance abuse. Having access to these services reduces the likelihood of a youth committing a new offense.

Letter from the Director

I am proud to present the Ohio Department of Youth Services Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. In the pages that follow, you will learn more about our many efforts over the last 12 months to improve the lives of justice-involved youth.

A healthy juvenile justice agency serves an important role in supporting public safety when it strikes a proper balance between serving youth in the community and placing those youth with the highest level of needs in facilities for rehabilitation. The professionals on our team are dedicated to achieving that balance and providing the best services for every youth impacted within our system. Our young people deserve nothing less.

To support preparing youth for a more positive future, we intensified our education and employment efforts. We boosted opportunities for youth to hold jobs within the facilities, providing the chance to save for reentry needs and gain work experience. We also expanded options for youth to gain industry-recognized certificates, preparing them for in-demand jobs and careers.

We also stepped up our efforts to support young fathers, in part by launching the *Bonding with Books* program, which provides books and videos of dads reading to their children, to facilitate healthy bonds during the time apart.

Committed to excellence, we take pride in the American Correctional Association's reaccreditation of Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility. Accreditation from ACA ensures that we are in compliance with, and even exceed, national standards. Ultimately, this supports the best approaches to help youth get on the right track.

Of course, these are just a few highlights of our work. To learn more, read ahead or visit dys.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,



Harvey J. Reed, Director

Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

Education Successes

The Buckeye United School District, operated by DYS and chartered by the State Board of Education, offers year-round classes to students grades 6-12 through an array of academic courses. BUSD meets all of the Ohio Department of Education standards, and all educators are licensed in their respective areas. The 3 schools within DYS facilities offer basic academics (math, English/ language arts, science and social studies), special education, career technical education, electives, and even post-secondary options. Accomplishments in FY 2018 include the following:

- ◆ 679 students served
- ◆ 1,147 credits were earned
- ◆ 94 youth received a GED
- ◆ 39 youth received a high school diploma

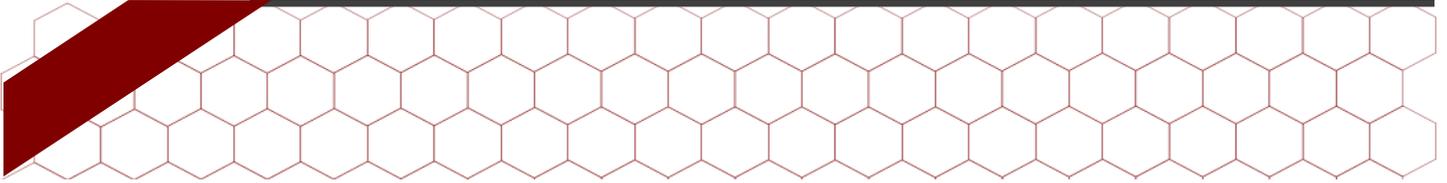
Career technical certificates awarded in FY 2018 include the following:

- ◆ 6 Administrative Office Technology
- ◆ 26 Framing and Roofing
- ◆ 57 Visual Design & Imaging (Adobe Suite certificates)
- ◆ 77 Horticulture
- ◆ 128 Lawn Mower (zero-turn and standing)
- ◆ 83 Career-Based Interventions (preparing for the workplace)
- ◆ 84 Healthy Living-Career Search (family and consumer science)
- ◆ 192 Transitional Skills (career exploration program)

Preparing Youth

The agency also focused on preparing youth for in-demand jobs and careers. By expanding the offering of industry-recognized certificates, youth can create road maps to a career and even higher education opportunities. Industry credentials awarded in FY 2018 include the following:

- ◆ 11 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OHSA) 10-Hour (safety and health hazards on the job)
- ◆ 23 Forklift
- ◆ 2 Microsoft PowerPoint
- ◆ 5 ServSafe (food safety training)
- ◆ 5 National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) Core Safety
- ◆ 3 NCCER Level 1 Construction
- ◆ 1 NCCER Electrical, Level 1
- ◆ 1 NCCER Electrical, Level 2



Prioritizing Reentry

Without creating any new positions, the agency formed a Bureau of Community Engagement and Reentry to make preparing and planning for youth transitioning back to their home communities a higher priority. The team serves as key contacts for employment, mentorship, and community service opportunities for youth. Efforts are becoming increasingly collaborative, thanks to active partnerships with employers, nonprofits, and a range of local resources.

Preparing for Employment

To prepare youth for the workforce, DYS intensified efforts to give youth the opportunity to hold a job while in the facility. At the close of FY 2018, a total of 158 jobs were filled by youth, including jobs in maintenance, food service, recreation, apprenticeships, and supervised off-grounds opportunities. Facility employment provides youth the opportunity to earn money to help with reentry needs as well as gain quality experience to list on a resume.

The agency also focused on preparing youth for in-demand jobs and careers. By offering industry-recognized certificates and building relationships with employers, more youth have the education, skills, and connections needed to access quality employment.

Giving Back Through Community Service

Community service provides meaningful activities for youth to give back to society while learning new skills. During FY 2018, a total of 17,181 hours of community service were provided by youth in facilities, and 1,411 hours of community service were provided by youth on parole.

Youth at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility packed 50,000 meals for the needy in February 2018. The project, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives and the Outreach Program, helped families served by foodbanks in Cleveland and Akron. Some meals also assisted families of youth through the facility's foodbank.

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility collaborated with the Bike Lady Inc. to give back by assembling 109 bikes given to the Chillicothe Job and Family Services in December 2017. The Bike Lady Inc. provides new bikes, helmets, and locks to foster children and other youth served by child protective services.

Youth at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility gave back to the community and showed appreciation for veterans through ongoing service at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. Youth cleaned tombstones, mowed the lawns, and picked up trash. One youth said, "I really enjoy going here; it feels like I have an actual job, and it's teaching me the values of hard work and responsibility."

Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

Investing in Our Community Programs

DYS provides funding and technical assistance for a continuum of programs and interventions that serve youth closer to their families and in the least restrictive, appropriate setting. This included statewide support of juvenile courts and county partners through RECLAIM Ohio (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors), Targeted RECLAIM, Competitive RECLAIM, the Detention Alternatives and Enhancements Initiative, Youth Services Grant, Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ), and CCFs. These community investments provided youth with the intensity of treatment and community supervision that matched their risk to reoffend. More information on these initiatives and their outcomes can be found at <http://dys.ohio.gov/Community-Programs> by pulling down the Community Programs tab and selecting the desired initiative.

Expanding Detention Alternatives

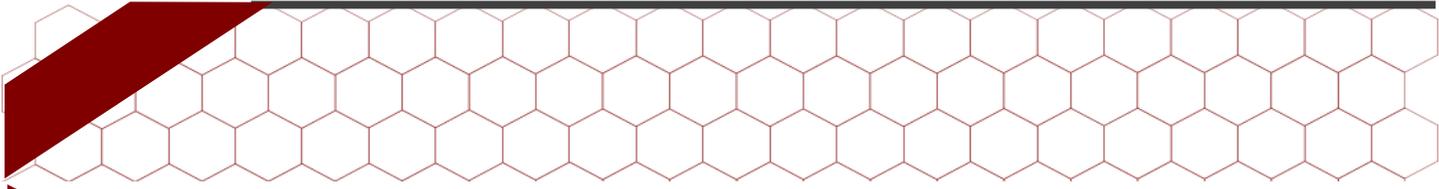
Detention alternatives promotes the practice of only placing the right youth into secure detention, while others receive less restrictive services, preventing youth from going deeper into the juvenile justice system. In FY 2018, DYS expanded its Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) to include Stark and Wayne Counties, bringing the total to 12 participating counties. In addition, DYS hosted the inaugural statewide JDAI conference in November 2017, bringing together participating JDAI counties, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, community stakeholders, and representatives from 23 additional counties wanting to learn more about JDAI.

Family Engagement

DYS recognizes the importance of interaction between youth and their families. The CLOSE to Home Project (Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected) provides free transportation to help connect youth with their families. In FY 2018, DYS provided a total of 78 bus trips that served 493 family members.

The Video Communicator Project promotes family involvement using laptops and wireless technology. In FY 2018, the Video Communicator was used for 56 family visits, 54 reentry meetings, and 58 staff meetings (between facility and parole staff) regarding youth.

DYS provides ample opportunities for families to connect with youth. All facilities offer visitation to family members seven days a week as well as provide special events to encourage family-youth connections. Virtual tour videos, available on the DYS [YouTube channel](#), allow families to see the facilities from anywhere, anytime.



Young Fathers

The Just Beginnings Program (formerly known as the Baby Elmo Program), in place at all three juvenile correctional facilities, is a parenting and structured visitation program to build bonds between children and their incarcerated teen fathers. Last year, this program served 35 youth and their young children.

In FY 2018, a new effort called *Bonding with Books* rolled out. Youth, who are themselves fathers, are videotaped reading to their children, and packages including the video, book, and personalized note are mailed to the young children and caregivers. *Bonding with Books* provides a unique opportunity for young fathers to stay connected with their children while they are away from home. A total of 55 youth and their families participated during the last year.

Promoting Youth Responsibility

A new behavior management system called PRIDE (Positive Response Incentive Driven Environment) was launched. The new approach raises the bar for how youth behave in the facilities as well as expectations for participation in education, treatment and programming. This level system incentivizes youths' personal responsibility and self-management to promote safe, positive facility environments.

Supporting Staff

Staff are the most important resource of any correctional system, and it is critical for staff to be healthy in order for youth to get healthy. The agency uses Critical Incident Stress Management to support staff when they experienced trauma and Peer Assistance to help staff with any personal issues. During FY 2018, Peer Assistance supported staff on 2,681 occasions, totaling 3,873 contacts in all. In addition, 3 crisis management briefings were conducted.

In May 2018, an agency-wide employee recognition program was held. Eric Harter, Business Administrator at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, was named Employee of the Year. Tanya Serrell, Youth Specialist at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility, was named Youth Specialist of the Year.

Services for Victims

The Office of Victim Services (OVS) within DYS is responsible for ensuring that the rights of crime victims of DYS youth are recognized and honored. OVS provides written notification of potential or actual status changes of youth, information and support, victim-offender dialogue opportunities, victim advocacy through linking victims with the Release Authority, and referrals. The office offers a support hotline that victims can call for free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 872-3132.

In FY 2018, OVS provided 5,747 written notices of potential or actual status changes of youth and managed 1,693 victim-related phone calls. During the year, a total of 165 youth successfully completed the Victim Awareness Curriculum, and 22 staff were trained to facilitate the Victim Awareness Curriculum. This program helps youth acknowledge how victims and the community are affected by crime and offensive behavior.

Highlights Continued

Sites Reaccredited

Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility and four Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs) received final approval on reaccreditation from the American Correctional Association in January 2018. The reaccredited CCFs included Hocking Valley Community Residential Center, North Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center, Lucas County Youth Treatment Center, and Perry/Multi-County Juvenile Facility.

Successful PREA Audits

All state-operated juvenile correctional facilities and county-operated Community Corrections Facilities have previously completed Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audits, which are conducted at each site every three years. In July 2017, Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek, Lucas County Youth Treatment Center, Central Ohio Youth Center, North Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center, Perry/Multi-County Juvenile Facility, and Hocking Valley Community Residential Center successfully completed PREA audits, certified through the Department of Justice. In addition, West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services, and Butler County Juvenile Rehabilitation Center were audited in June 2018 and found in full compliance.

Training Excellence

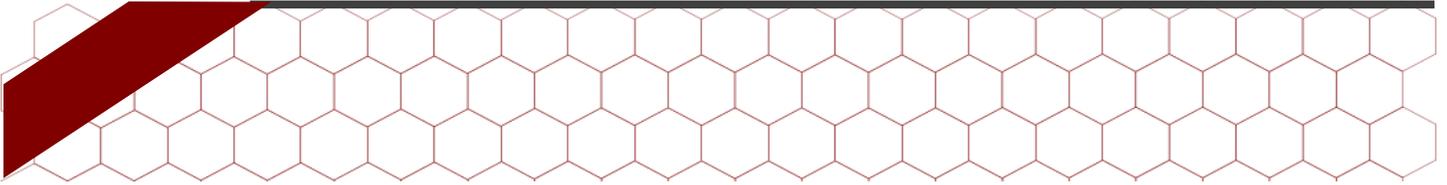
DYS, along with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, hosted the International Association of Correctional Training Personnel annual conference in Cleveland, held October 15-18, 2017. Recognizing the critical role of training and staff development in the field of corrections, the event promoted organizational and individual excellence in the profession of training. Corrections professionals from around the country gathered to exchange ideas and learn innovative ways to train staff working within adult and juvenile correctional facilities, community corrections, and local jails.

Alternative Placements for Youth

DYS uses a continuum of residential facilities to meet the individualized treatment, education, and behavioral health needs of youth. In FY 2018, these included the following sites: Applewood Centers, Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek, Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services, and Pomegranate Health Systems. Alternative placement options provide the treatment and services youth need to become responsible young men and women. Alternative placements served a total of 149 youth during FY 2018.

Community Corrections Facilities

There are 12 Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs) throughout the State of Ohio which are used by juvenile and family court judges in lieu of committing to DYS youth who have been adjudicated for a felony offense. These include the following sites: Butler County Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, Hocking Valley Community Residential Center, Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio, Multi-County Juvenile Attention System Community, Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility, Perry/Multi-County Juvenile Facility, Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services, Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, Lucas County Youth Treatment Center, North Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center, West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, and Oakview Juvenile Residential Center. CCFs served a total of 626 youth during FY 2018. The average length of stay in CCFs was 6.94 months.



A Look Back: Accomplishments 2011 through 2018

First to Receive Barbara-Allen Hagen Award Twice

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility was the first facility in the nation to receive the Barbara-Allen Hagen Award twice (2012 and 2015). This award from the Performance-based Standards (PbS) Learning Institute is given for excellence in youth care by developing and implementing strategic plans that result in positive outcomes for youth, staff, and families.

Engaging Family Members

Involving families throughout a youth's stay supports more positive outcomes. Treatment interventions that actively engage the youth and their family are known to be more effective. Today, the Department of Youth Services offers visitation opportunities to family members 7-days-a-week as well as a free, monthly bus service to make it easier for parents and guardians to see their youth, supporting family ties and habilitation. Since the inception of free bus trips in 2012, the agency has provided a total of 420 trips that served 3,960 family members.

Supporting Programs to Rehabilitate Youth Locally When Possible

Enhanced the continuum of programs and interventions to serve youth closer to their families and in the least restrictive setting. The intensity of treatment and community supervision is matched with a youth's risk to reoffend. As a result, the DYS average daily population has decreased from 730 youth in 2011 to an average of 515 today.

Holding Youth Accountable and Ensuring Consistency & Fairness

In order to more effectively serve a higher concentration of the youth with the most challenging needs, a new behavior management system called PRIDE (Positive Response Incentive Driven Environment) was instituted. The new approach raises the bar for how youth behave in the facilities as well as expectations for participation in education, treatment, and programming. This level system incentivizes youths' personal responsibility and self-management to promote safe, positive facility environments.

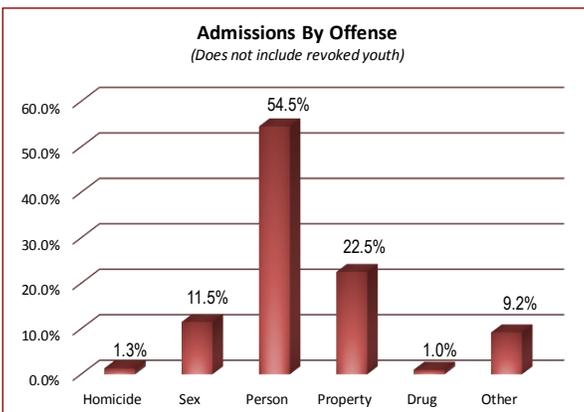
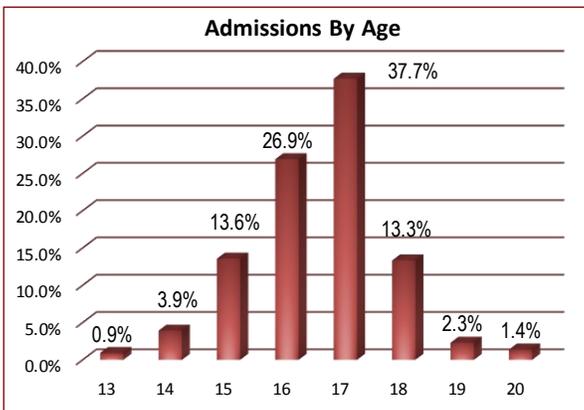
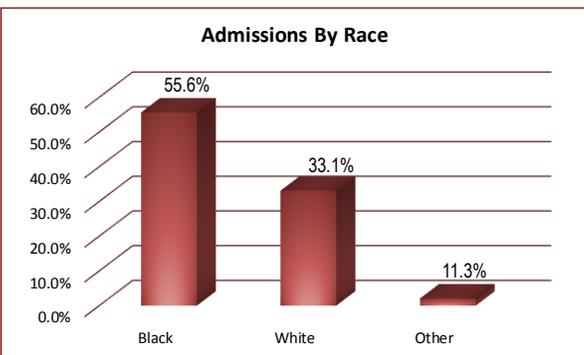
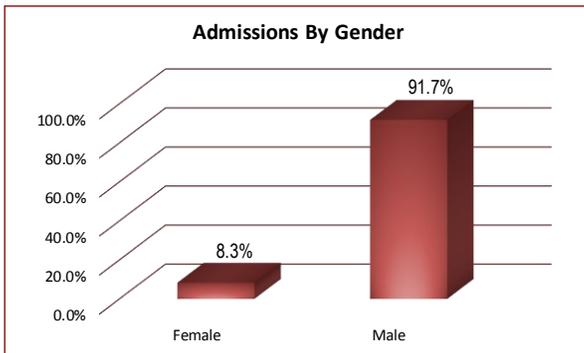
Delivering Cost Savings to Taxpayers

Because of the strong continuum of community options that encourage and reinforce the diversion of appropriate youth, the agency reduced the overall budget by \$61.1 million (\$289.1 million in FY 2011 to \$228 million in FY 2018). In an evaluation by the University of Cincinnati, community-based alternatives were found to be not only more cost-effective, but also more successful in helping youth.

Creating Strong Partnerships

The Department of Youth Services and the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction took significant steps in 2017 and 2018 to share non-core, back-office administrative functions that can help drive efficiencies and direct more money to their separate and distinct core missions.

Fiscal Year 2018 Statistics



Site	Population
Applewood Centers	2
Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services	13
Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility	143
Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility	166
Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility	133
Lighthouse Youth Center - Paint Creek	48
Pomegranate	10

Population	442
------------	-----

Population	284
------------	-----

County	Percentage
Cuyahoga	25.5%
Hamilton	11.7%
Franklin	7.8%
Lucas	4.6%
Montgomery	3.7%

Top five counties only

Category	Value	Value
Administrative Support	*	*
Community Corrections Facilities	*	*
Debt Service	*	*
Facilities	*	*
Juvenile Court Subsidies and Grants	*	*
Parole	*	*
Alternative Placements	*	*

**Final expenditures to be determined and will be added December 2018*

Ohio | Department of
Youth Services

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2018

30 West Spring Street, Fifth Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
www.dys.ohio.gov



www.Facebook.com/OhioDeptYouthServices



[@OhioDYS](https://twitter.com/OhioDYS)



www.youtube.com/user/OhioDYS